

# Pupil Services Early Childhood Services Presentation

*School Committee Meeting*  
February 16, 2012

# Early Childhood Services: IDEA Legal Requirements (Established in 1986)

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- “...early intervention services must be provided in natural environments, including the home and community settings in which children without disabilities participate.”
- By definition, natural environments mean “settings that are natural or normal for the child’s age peers who have no disabilities”

*State Regulations 603 CMR 28.03 and Federal Regulations 34 CFR 303.12(b)*

# Early Childhood Services: Eligibility Process

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- Determined by each state's eligibility definition
- Evaluation process for infants and toddlers during 0-36 month period
- Includes evaluations and assessments by informed clinicians at no cost to parents
- Transitional planning begins at 30-32 months (no less than 3 months prior to child's third birthday)

# Early Childhood Services: Districts' Administrative Responsibility

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## ■ **Child Find**

- Conduct outreach to find eligible children
- Screen children, ages 3-4 for special education

## ■ **Young Children**

- Services evaluated by age 3
- IEP in place by third birthday

## ■ **Provide Services**

- Based on child's unique needs (not just the disability)
- Placement in Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) with typical peers

*State Regulations 603 CMR 28.03 and Federal Regulations 34 CFR Part 300*

# Early Childhood Services: Service Continuum

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- Itinerant Services: OT, PT, S/L only (Parents enroll children in private community based preschool programs)
- Public School Program (Team convenes prior to child's third birthday and determines that the child requires services beyond what a community preschool program can provide)
- CASE Placement/Other Collaborative Placement
- Private OOD Placement
- Home-Based Program

# Early Childhood Services: Districts' Programmatic Responsibility

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## ■ Inclusionary Programs

- Setting must include students with and without disabilities
- Services provided at home, the public school, licensed child care facility

## ■ Staff/Student Ratio

- Class size not to exceed 20
- No more than 5 students with disabilities
- If number of students with disabilities is 6 or 7, class size cannot exceed 15

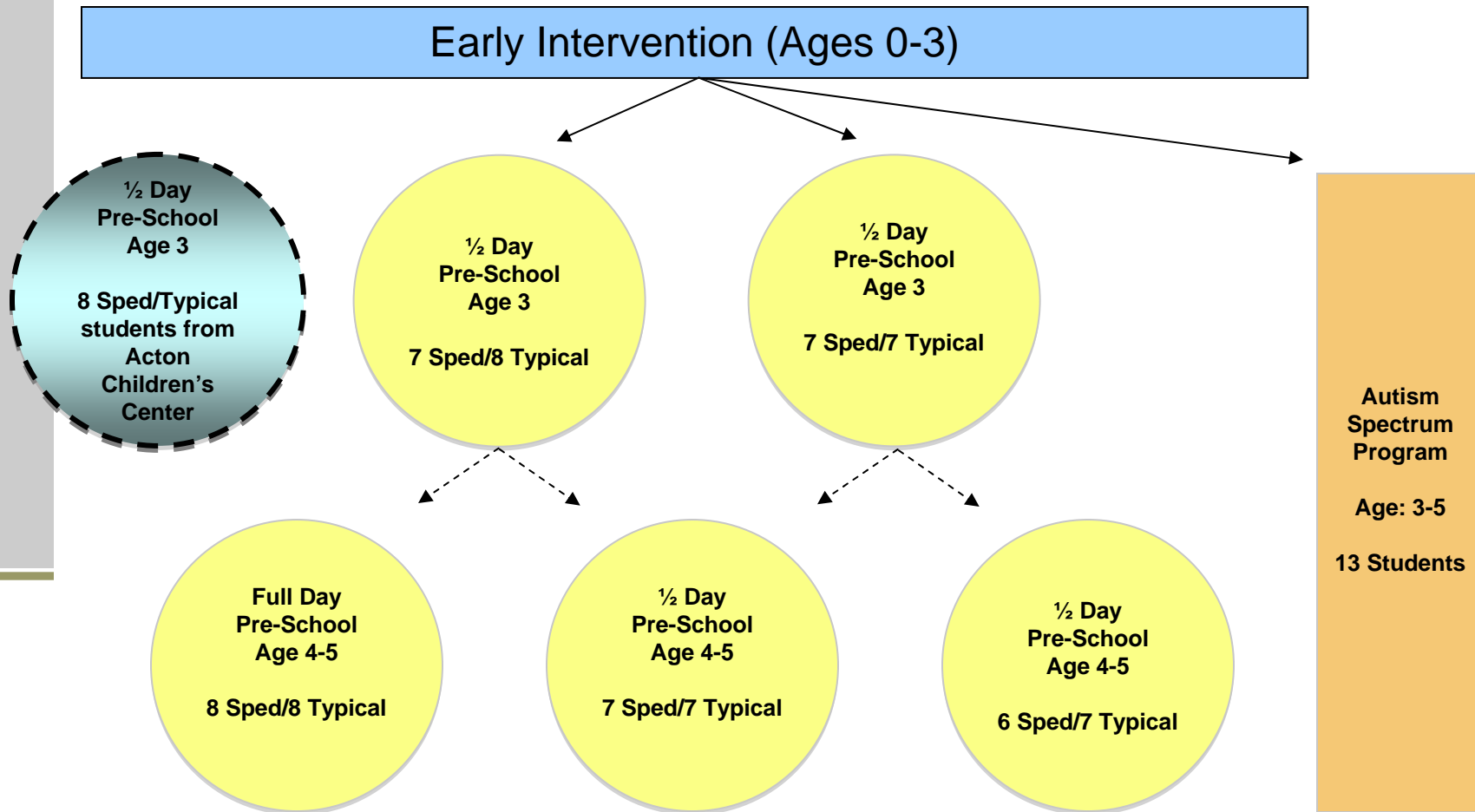
# APS Preschool Placement Decisions

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## ■ Full Day v. Half Day

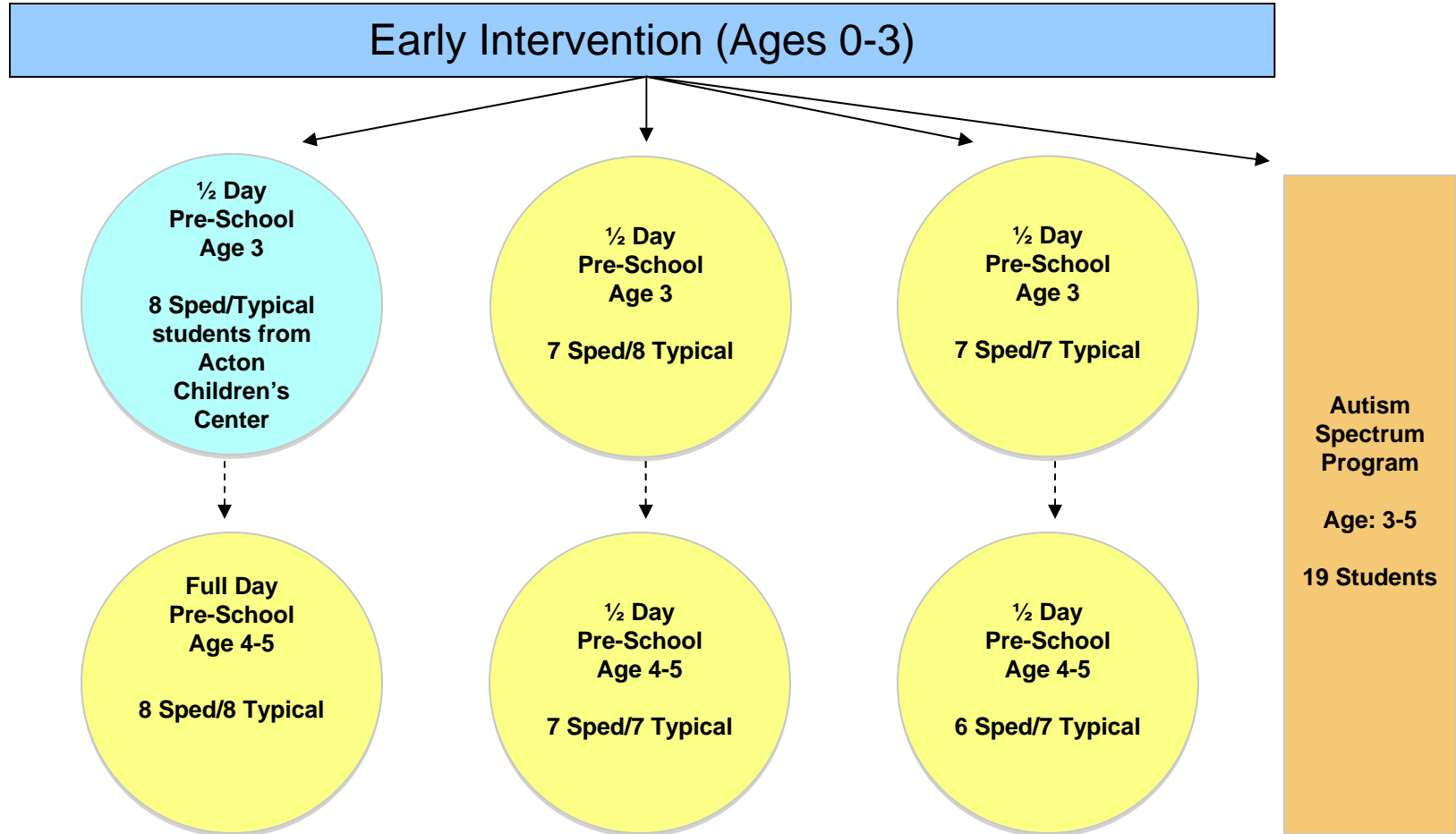
- A TEAM Decision
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Medically fragile
- Developmental delays (*combination of speech and language, motor, cognition, social/behavioral*)
- Hearing Impaired

# APS – Fall 2011 Preschool Programming

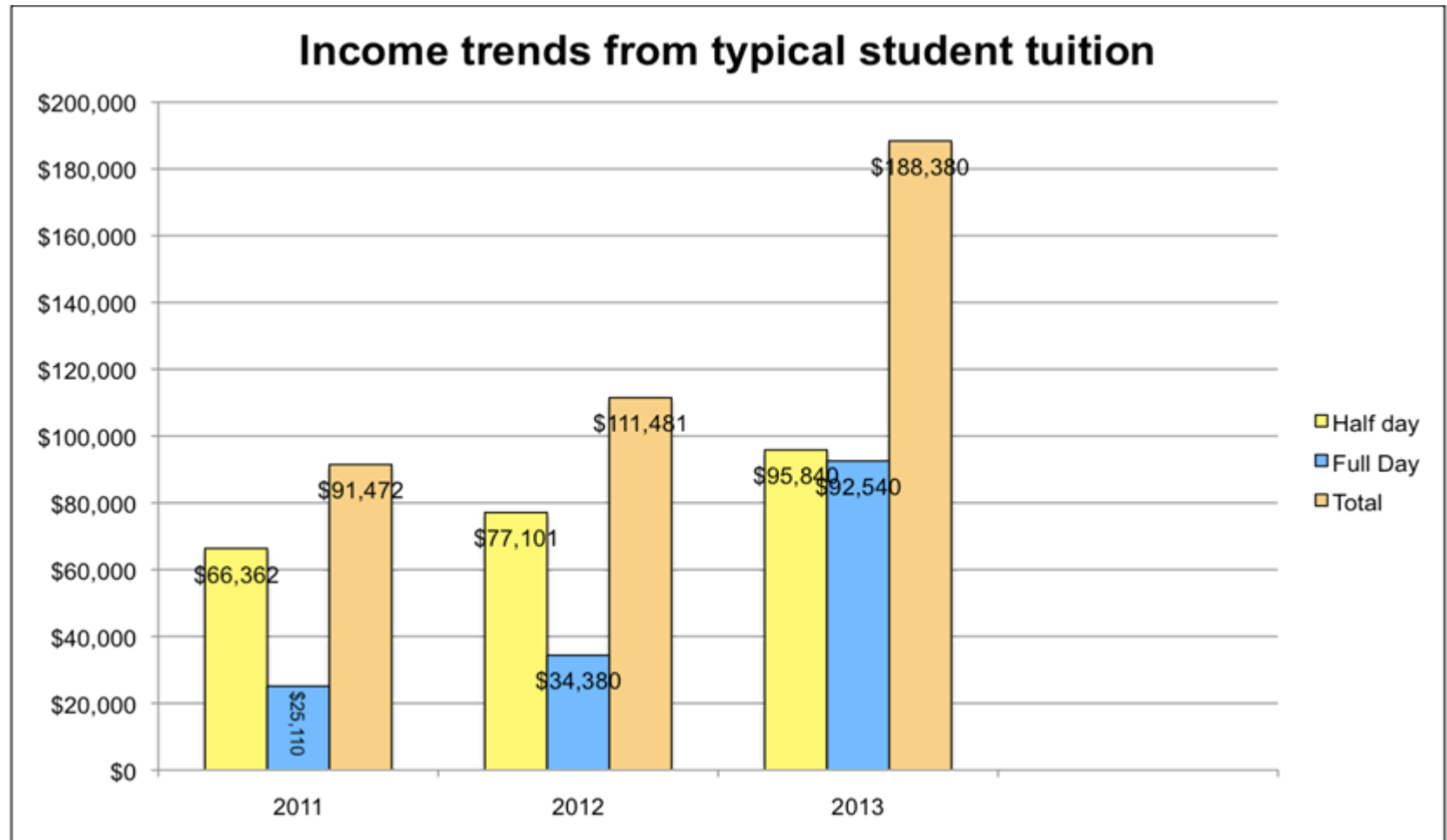




# APS - Preschool Program Expansion



# APS – Typical Preschool Tuition Trends



# In-District Program Continuum

